

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 03920 01 OF 02 080617Z

12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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AMEMBASSY SEOUL

FBIS OKINAWA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMIPAC

CHMAAGCHINA

COMUSTDC

CDR USACC TAIWAN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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PAGE 02 HONG K 03920 01 OF 02 080617Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 HONG KONG 3920

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CH

SUBJ: WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA NO. 14

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1.2.3. DEMONSTRATION IN TIEN AN MEN SQUARE
- 4.17 EDITORIAL CALLS FOR CRACKDOWN
- 5.6. TENG'S "GENERAL PROGRAM"--ATTACKS SHARPEN
- 7. HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, CULTURAL REVOLUTION
- 8.9. LEADERSHIP APPEARANCES
- 10.11. THE UNITED STATES
- 12.13. SOVIETS
- 14. SOUTH ASIA

SUMMARY: THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN TOOK A SUDDEN CHANGE APRIL 5 WITH THE MASS DEMONSTRATION IN TIEN AN MAN SQUARE IN PEKING. CENTERED ON PAYING RESPECTS TO CHOU EN-LAI, THE DEMONSTRATION INCLUDED OVERTONES CRITICAL OF CHIANG CHING AND OTHER LEFTISTS WHO ARE CURRENTLY LEADING THE ATTACK AGAINST TENG HSIAO-PING. DESPITE SOME VIOLENCE, THE CROWD WAS DISPERSED BY THE EARLY HOURS OF APRIL 6, AND PEOPLE'S DAILY THAT DAY CARRIED A WARNING AGAINST THOSE WHO CREATE DISTURBANCES. EXTERNALLY, THE PRC MEDIA CONTINUED TO FOCUS THEIR ANTI-SOVIET INVECTIVE ON THE SOVIET-EGYPTIAN PROBLEM AND HAVE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE TO BANGLADESH. PRC DOMESTIC MEDIA STILL HAVE NOT MENTIONED THE APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADOR GATES AS USLO CHIEF. END SUMMARY

1. DEMONSTRATION IN TIEN AN MEN SQUARE
POPULAR HOMAGE TO THE LATE PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI DURING THE TRADITIONAL CHINESE HOLIDAY TO PAY RESPECTS TO THE ANCESTORS--IN POST-CULTURAL REVOLUTION CHINA RESPECTS TO REVOLUTIONARY MARTYRS--ERUPTED INTO SPONTANEOUS MASS DEMONSTRATIONS IN
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PAGE 03 HONG K 03920 01 OF 02 080617Z

TIEN AN MEN SQUARE, PEKING, APRIL 5. APPARENTLY WITY A GOOD DEAL OF PRE-PLANNING AND PERHAPS SOME BEHIND-THE-SCENES ENCOURAGEMENT FROM MODERATE ELEMENTS IN THE LEADERSHIP, GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS IN PEKING TOOK THE HOLIDAY OPPORTUNITY TO ENGULF THE MARTYRS MONUMENT WITH WREATHS COMMEMORATING CHOU'S DEEDS. IN SOME CASES THE MESSAGES TRANSPARENTLY ATTACKED THOSE WHO HAVE INITIATED THE PRESENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST TENG HSIAO-PING--INCLUDING PRAISE

FOR MAO'S MARTYRED WIFE, YANG KAI-HUI, AND SWIPES AT CHIANG CHING. SIMILAR VEILED CRITICISM OF CURRENT CAMPAIGN CRITICS WAS ALSO VISIBLE IN NANKING WHERE POSTERS ATTACKED TWO SHANGHAI NEWSPAPER ARTICLES FOR BEING ANTI-CHOU (PEKING 582).
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2. SENSITIVITY TO POPULAR ADULATION FOR CHOU AMONG SECTORS OF THE LEADERSHIP WAS EVIDENT AT THE TIME OF CHOU'S FUNERAL IN JANUARY, AND SENSITIVITY TO THE CURRENT REMEMBRANCES LIKELY PROVOKED THE AUTHORITIES TO REMOVE THE MASSES' TRIBUTE ON APRIL 4. THE CROWD, WHICH GATHERED IN THE SQUARE THE FOLLOWING MORNING, BECAME UNRULY. SOME VEHICLES WERE BURNED AND SOME PEOPLE WERE BEATEN. SPEECHES BY INDIVIDUALS AMONG THE CROWDS CALLED FOR SUPPORT FOR CHOU AND MAO, AND SOME GROUPS AMONG THE ESTIMATED 100,000 PEOPLE TRIED TO ENTER BOTH THE HISTORY MUSEUM AND THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE, WHICH FLANK THE SQUARE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

3. LATER IN THE DAY A SMALL BUILDING NEAR THE MUSEUM WAS LOOTED AND PARTIALLY BURNED. DURING THIS ENTIRE PERIOD THE PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES, UNARMED PLA, AND FINALLY MUNICIPAL MILITIA REMAINED UNPROVOCATIVE AND MERELY RESTRAINED MASS ENTRANCE TO THE MUSEUM AND THE GREAT HALL. FOLLOWING BROADCASTS OF PEKING BOSS WU TEH'S APPEAL FOR ORDER AND HIS WARNING ABOUT ELEMENTS SEEKING TO MISLEAD THE MASSES, THE SITUATION CALMED. BY LATE IN THE EVENING THE DEMONSTRATION WAS VIRTUALLY CONCLUDED WITH THE MILITIA CLEARING AWAY THE LAST PEOPLE IN THE EARLY HOURS OF APRIL 6 (PEKING 611, PEKING 599, PEKING 597, PEKING 596). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

4. EDITORIAL CALLS FOR CRACKDOWN
IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE PEKING DEMONSTRATIONS, PEOPLE'S DAILY THE FOLLOWING DAY (APRIL 6) PUBLISHED AN EDITORIAL CALLING
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PAGE 04 HONG K 03920 01 OF 02 080617Z

FOR VIGILANCE AGAINST THOSE WHO SPREAD POLITICIAL RUMORS AND CREATE DISTURBANCES. TROUBLEMAKERS, IT DECLARED, WILL BE PURSUED, INVESTIGATED, AND RESOLUTELY ATTACKED. THE BULK OF THE EDITORIAL WAS DEVOTED TO THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST TENG, WHICH IT WARNED WAS LIKELY TO BE A COMPLICATED STRUGGLE. IN CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS EDITORIALS (WR 13, WR 10), IT CLEARLY SINGLED OUT TENG PERSONALLY AS AN OBJECT OF ATTACK AND EQUATED HIM WITH ARCH-CRIMINALS LIU SHAO-CHI AND LIN PIAO. THE EDITORIAL NEVERTHELESS REITERATED CALLS FOR STUDY AND GAVE NO HINT THAT ANY ESCALATION TO MASS ACTION IS BEING CONTEMPLATED (HONG KONG 3832). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

5. GENG'S "GENERAL PROGRAM"--ATTACKS SHARPEN
IMPORTANT ARTICLES IN RED FLAG AND EPOPLE'S DAILY WRITTEN
PRIOR TO THE MOST RECENT EDITORIAL ALSO REFLECT AN INCREASE

IN THE INVECTIVE AGAINST TENG HSIAO-PING. THE ARTICLES FLESH OUT DETAILS OF TENG'S 25-YEAR "GENERAL PROGRAM," A PURPORTED BLUEPRINT TO OVERTURN CHAIRMAN MAO'S LINE BY EMPHASIZING PRODUCTION AND IGNORING CLASS STRUGGLE. LIKE THE EDITORIAL, THE ARTICLES MAKE NO MENTION OF "CURING THE SICKNESS TO SAVE THE PATIENT," THE MAO QUOTE WHICH IMPLIES THAT THE PERSON UNDER ATTACK IS REDEEMABLE. RATHER, THERE IS THE LINKING OF TENG AND HIS SUPPORTERS TO "CAPITALIST OVERLORDS AND THEIR RUNNING DOGS," AND THE DECLARATION THAT TENG HAS "COMPLETELY TAKEN OVER THE MANTLE AND THE REVISIONIST LINE OF LIU SHAO-CHI AND LIN PIAO," LEAVES LITTLE HOPE FOR HIS REDEMPTION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 01 HONG K 03920 02 OF 02 071044Z

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ACTION EA-09

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMIPAC

CHMAAGCHINA
COMUSTDC
CDR USACC TAIWAN
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PAGE 02 HONG K 03920 02 OF 02 071044Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 HONG KONG 3920

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6. ALTHOUGH BOTH ARTICLES TRY TO PUT DISTANCE BETWEEN TENG'S "GENERAL PROGRAM" AND CHINA'S DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AS SET FORTH BY THE 4TH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS (NPC), IN OUR OPINION THEY FAIL. THE CHINESE READER CANNOT HELP RECALLING, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT MENTIONED IN EITHER ARTICLE, THAT THE ARCHITECT OF THE NPC WAS CHOU EN-LAI. THUS, THE ATTACKS AGAINST TENG'S PROGRAM CAN VERY EASILY BE READ AS AN ATTACK AGAINST CHOU'S POLICIES. VIOLENCE HAS ALREADY BROKEN OUT IN PEKING ONCE OVER THE FEELINGS OF THE MASSES FOR CHOU EN-LAI (PARA 1), AND ARTICLES LIKE THESE CAN ONLY EXACERBATE THOSE FEELINGS (HONG KONG 3915). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

7. HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, CULTURAL REVOLUTION
FOLLOWING A MARCH 24 PEOPLE'S DAILY CALL TO THE MASSES FOR ARTICLES TO "EULOGIZE" THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION I HONOR OF THAT EVENT'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY, FIVE PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPERS AND THREE PROVINCIAL RADIO STATIONS HAVE ISSUED SIMILAR APPEALS, INDICATING WIDESPREAD MEDIA PLANS TO COMMEMORATE THE EVENT. CONSIDERING THE ABUSE HEAPED UPON TENG HSIAO-PING IN THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN FOR HIS DENIGRATION OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, IT WILL BE SIGNIFICANT IF THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS ARE MORE EFFECTIVE IN BOOSTING MASS SUPPORT FOR THE ATTACKS AGAINST TENG (HONG KONG 3450). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

8. LEADERSHIP APPEARANCES
CONSPICUOUS BY THEIR ABSENCE FROM A JOINTLY SPONSORED BANQUET FOR THE VISITING ROMANIAN TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS DELEGATION WERE THE REHABILITATED MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, YEH FEI, AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, WAN LI. HOSTING DUTIES

WERE HANDLED BY THE POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS MINISTER CHUNG FU-HSIANG, WHO WAS ASSISTED BY A NUMBER OF VICE MINISTERS FROM THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS. WAN ALREADY HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF POSTER CRITICISM AND YEH, AS A FELLOW REHABILITEE, COULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED A LIKELY TARGET FOR SIMILAR ABUSE. UNCLAS
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PAGE 03 HONG K 03920 02 OF 02 071044Z

9. MORE ROUTINELY, SEVERAL POLITBURO MEMBERS/VICE PREMIERS MET WITH FOREIGNERS DURING THE WEEK. CHANG CHUN-CHIAO SAW THE ARRIVING NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR AND THE DEPARTING DANISH AMBASSADOR. AN EDUCATIONAL STUDY GROUP FROM THE PHILIPPINES MET WITH WU KUEI-HSIEN, WHILE AN ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF/COLLEGE DELEGATION FROM PAKISTAN CONFERRED WITH CHEN YUNG-KUEI. UNCLASSIFIED

10. THE UNITED STATES
IN CONTRAST WITH THE SILENCE OF PRC DOMESTIC MEDIA ORGANS ON THE SUBJECT, LOCAL NON-COMMUNIST NEWSPAPERS PICKED UP WASHINGTON-SOURCED, MARCH 30, WIRE SERVICE REPORTS ON THOMAS GATES' TESTIMONY ON THE HILL, INCLUDING THE NEW USLO CHIEF'S PLEDGE TO WORK FOR THE SPEEDY NORMALIZATION OF US/CHINA RELATIONS AND COMMENTS ON THE PHYSICAL PROBLEMS OF EXPANDING USLO. UNCLASSIFIED

11. DURING THE PAST WEEK, NCNA TREATMENT OF THE US INCLUDED REPORTS ON THE ARRIVALS IN PEKING OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE SAN FRANCISCO ASIAN ART MUSEUM AND A MID-AMERICA COMMITTEE DELEGATION. IT ALSO CARRIED A BRIEF REPORT ON THE NATIONWIDE US TRUCKERS' STRIKE AND FEATURED A LENGTHY REPORT ON CAMBODIAN MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA HU NIM'S MARCH 31 STATEMENT, WHICH WAS LIBERALLY SEASONED WITH COMMENTARY CRITICAL OF THE US (NCNA, APRIL 2-6). UNCLASSIFIED

12. SOVIETS
PEKING MEDIA HAVE CONTINUED THEIR HEAVY PLAY ON SOVIET DIFFICULTIES WITH EGYPT FOLLOWING ABROGATION OF THE FRIENDSHIP TREATY BY PRESIDENT SADAT. BESIDES REPLAYING FOREIGN PRESS CRITICISM OF THE SOVIETS, DRAWING HEAVILY FROM THE EGYPTIAN PRESS, NCNA AND PEOPLE'S DAILY HAVE STRESSED AD NAUSEUM SOVIET PERFIDY TOWARDS THE EGYPTIANS AND WARNED OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES TO LEARN FROM THIS SOVIET "NEGATIVE EXAMPLE." THE PRC MEDIA HAVE ALSO FOLLOWED CLOSELY SADAT'S CURRENT EUROPEAN TOUR, POINTING OUT THAT HE REACHED AN "IDENTITY OF VIEWS ON THE GENERAL SITUATION IN THE NEAR EAST" WITH THE FRENCH PRESIDENT AND CITING THE FRG PRESIDENT THAT GERMANY WILL "DO ITS BEST TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF EGYPT." THIS TYPE OF SECOND-THIRD WORLD COOPERATION HAS
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PAGE 04 HONG K 03920 02 OF 02 071044Z

LONG BEEN A FAVORITE PEKING THEME AND UNDOUBTEDLY PLEASES THE PRC, WHICH HAS LIMITED RESOURCES OF ITS OWN TO ASSIST EGYPT (NCNA, APRIL 1-6). CONFIDENTIAL

13. IN OTHER ANTI-SOVIET ITEMS, THE PRC MEDIA ALSO STAYED ON FAMILIAR THEMES. NOTING THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS FROM ANGOLA, AN NCNA CORRESPONDENT COMMENTARY APRIL 1 REHASHED SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA AND ASKED WHEN THE SOVIETS WOULD WITHDRAW. AGAIN, HOWEVER, THE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA WAS MENTIONED ONLY IN PASSING. ANOTHER NCNA ITEM CHORTLED OVER THE "EMBARRASSMENT" OF THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ESCAP MEETING IN BANGKOK WHEN HIS ATTEMPT TO GAIN MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY FAILED. IN THE DEBATE THE PRC REPRESENTATIVE POINTEDLY ARGUED THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS A "UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED EUROPEAN COUNTRY" (NCNA, APRIL 1-3). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

14. SOUTH ASIA
THRE PRC MEDIA TREATMENT OF SOUTH ASIA HAVE CONTINUED WITH AN IMPLICIT ANTI-INDIAN BIAS AND EXPLICIT CHINESE INTEREST IN ATTEMPTING TO CONSOLIDATE SINO-BANGLADESH RELATIONS. THE BANGLADESH (BD) AMBASSADOR, WHO PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS MARCH 5, HAD A MEETING WITH VICE PREMIER (AND HEAD OF THE STATE CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION) KU MU MARCH 31, BUT NO INDICATION WAS GIVEN OF THE PURPOSE OR ATMOSPHERE OF THE MEETING. IN ITS COVERAGE OF THE BANGKOK ESCAP MEETING, NCNA QUOTED THE BD REPRESENTATIVE ON BD'S RIGHTS TO SHARE THE GANGES WATER, AND NCNA FAVORABLY COVERED THE VISIT TO KATHMANDU OF THE BD PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER HUDA AND THE NUMBER OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED. DESPITE ALL OF THIS TACIT CRITICISM OF INDIA, THE GOI WAS NOT MENTIONED IN ANY OF THESE REPORTS, THUS LENDING CREDENCE TO REPORTS FROM NEW DELHI THAT THE GOI HAS DECIDED TO SEND AN AMBASSADOR TO PEKING. THE INDIANS HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED AT THE CHARGE LEVEL SINCE 1962 (NCNA, MARCH 31-APRIL 4) (NEW DELHI 4931). CONFIDENTIAL
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